

MRS S. No thank Go SHOULD A WOMAN TE L.

BLACKMAIL OR MORE BLACKMAIL. he thinks he has a TIME ANNIVERSARY OF
wouldn't do a disservice to his would CAST THEIR WEDDING.

Oh I'll JACK SPRINGFIELD fifty pounds and he can think
you his MRS. SPRINGFIELD. undamaged goods.

CISSY A MAID.

MRS S Never. RAYMAND BRENNAN A FORMER ELAME.

SCENE SPRINGFIELDS FLAT. LOTS OF FLOWERS. LARGE PHOTO. PIANO. There
MRS SPRINGFIELD IS DISCOVERED ON. SINGING. CURTAIN RAISES MRS. S.
RISES FROM THE PIANO. SHIFTS MUSIC. PICKS UP PHOTO. LOOKS AT IT
AH MY DEAR OLD THING. (Kisses Photo) Three years ago today since we
danced down the aisle. (She hums Wedding March and marches down stage
with photo on her left arm. No the other side. (Changes photo over
and hums march again) Dear old Jack. Three years today, and you only
kissed me once this morning. Just like a man to forget. (Puts photo
on table and puts flowers around it) He shall have flowers the old
darling. He shall be put on a pedestal he shall (props up the photo)
Three years and never a cross word. Never a moment of doubt. It does
n't seem possible that there could have ever been any one else in my
life. Dear old Jack, so trusting and true. I love you Jack I do I do
(Be off) Thats Jack. He's early I wonder if he's remembered after
all. ENTER MAID with bunch of flowers.

MAID I was told to bring them to you. him a chaste white marble Godde
You'll find it hard to lose his adulation. I'll give you a

MRS. S Ah, he has remembered. I knew he would. (Snatches flowers in
h vchaste sees card attached) Ah, what has he written. FROM THE
GARDEN OF YESTERDAY RAY BRENNAN (she screams and drops flowers and
looks agast) Where did you get these?

MAID. A man gave them to me. He is waiting below. Enter Brennan.
Overcoat shabby. Shifty and half drunk)

MRS S. Y u here. I might bear it from someone's lips. No if it breaks my
heart I will tell him. ENTER JACK WITH NECKLACE I N BOX.

BRENNAN (to maid) You needn't wait Missy. (shows her out and shuts door)
My flowers don't seem too welcome.

MRS S. They are not nor the bearer. (they embrace. He is about
to kiss her when she turns away.)

BRENNAN Oh. I thought they would have paved the way for a little tete-
a- tete. years of our wedding. And today I have to tell you that

MRS S. What do you want? told that will sadden you and alter our feelings for me.

BRENNAN (Picks up flowers and sees photo. laughs a false laugh)
Hero worship and after three years too. I thought we
abstracted all the honey in those three weeks we had. Our's
was a sort of an Elinor Glynn affair.

MRS S Why are you here. had married it when just as I was almost forgotten it, it
Raymond Brennan---

BRENNAN Why. Because I'm broke well to shorten it off to hard boiled
facts I'm broke. I need money. Your husband doesn't know
sense of decency. Why only just as he

MRS S. No thank God. *Jack. It has taken all my courage to*

BRENNAN And that being so he thinks he has married an angel. It wouldn't do to disillusion him would it. For the sake of-- oh I'll be cheap. Give me fifty pounds and he can think you his flawless pearl, his undamaged goods. *to chair* Let

MRS S Never. If my husband is to know, I will tell him, not you.

BRENNAN Oh no you won't. You would weaken when the time comes. There is no hurry. I will wait until next Friday. *Here's my* telephone number *(gives card)* I have descended the social scale somewhat during the last four years but I know my value in this case. I'm the fly in the amber.

MRS. S *(tears up card)* Will you go. *we were a careless lot.*

BRENNAN I'm going. It's not good bye only au-revoir. *(turns back)* You had better come to light.

MRS S. Not a penny. If he is to learn that a trusting woman was wronged and deceived by a contemptible cad who now tries to blackmail, he may as well hear it from the victim herself. Leave the house.

BRENNAN I know he thinks you went to him a chaste white marble Goddess. You'll find it hard to lose his adulation. I'll give you a ring. EXIT.

MRS S. What did I ever see in that man to give myself to ruin. What shall I do. Anyway Jack loves me and I love him. *(picks up flowers)* *(goes to throw them away but hesitates)* No. They will serve to remind me of a duty. It is a duty. But why should I tell. It was before I knew him. Oh why didn't I tell him before. I know why. I was afraid to lose his love. Now he might hear it from someones lips. No if it breaks my heart I will tell him. ENTER JACK WITH NECKLACE IN BOX.

JACK Look what I've got. Come and be chained up. Come and let me bind you with these golden links. *(they embrace. He is about to put chain on she pushes him away.)*

MRS S Wait a minute Jack. Today is the third anniversary of three years of happiness--of our wedding. And today I have to tell you something that will sadden you and alter our feelings for me.

JACK. Don't be a silly woman. Nothing could ever alter my feelings for you

MRS S. I must although it breaks my heart. It will hurt you terribly. I never meant to tell you but I have got to now. I thought had buried it when just as I had almost forgotten it, it comes back to haunt me. A man I once knew whose name is Raymond Brennan----

JACK I knew him. A waster, a drunkard. A man who is lost to sense of decency. Why only just now---

S Don't interrupt please Jack. It has taken all my courage to bring myself to speak---

K Very well. I only wanted to tell---

S S (Clasps hand over his mouth and gently forces him into chair) Let me speak.

ACK Go on then.

RS S I met him soon after I left the Convent. He was a good looking fellow then.

ACK Before he got sodden.

MRS S . We used to meet at dances and--well we were a careless lot.

JACK I know. Flippant Flappers.

MRS S He suggested one night that I should go to his flat after a dance. I went and I stayed.

JACK You stayed.

MRS S Yes I stayed. He promised me marriage. I believed him. I begged him to keep his word. We quarrelled and that's all. And then I met you.

JACK Yes and I married you and you never told me.

MRS S I would not have told you now. It had passed out of my life. But he was here a little while ago.

JACK Here in this house.

MRS. S Yes. He demanded money as the price of his silence, but I refused him and now I have told you myself. (Jack turns away) Oh Jack don't turn from me. I have been all what you think I am. Jack since you've known me I am what you like me to be. Honest and true. I never told you because I thought it would ~~make no difference~~ was so completely buried in the past I thought it wouldn't make any difference if you didn't know. Oh Jack say something.

JACK (with a hard laugh) It's a damn good joke on us all. This man Raymond Brennan was knocked down and killed just as I came in. He was swerving across the road, half drunk I suppose. He was taken away in an ambulance dead.

MRS S And you never said anything.

JACK I was trying to tell you all about it but you wouldn't let me speak. You put your hand over my mouth and told me not to interrupt. So my wonderful Marble Goddess is only Clay. Chinal

MRS S Oh don't Jack. Don't.

JACK You needn't have told me. He was dead. Why did you tell me.
 Oh Hell. (she stands in a pleading attitude then turns down st
 He comes behind her. Turns her round and takes her in his arms
 (My darling Wife.)

Exit Woman

SLOW CURTAIN.

No. Escena me

Man Turns around

Man. My god. My first wife